

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 7 – 10 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 29, 30, 32 and 33 as provided below.

Please add new Claims 34 – 37.

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)
16. (cancelled)
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (cancelled)
20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

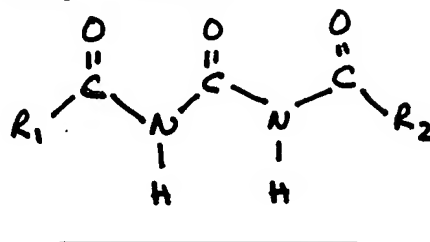
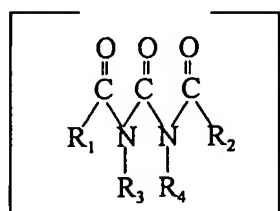
25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A treated seed comprising a plant seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula

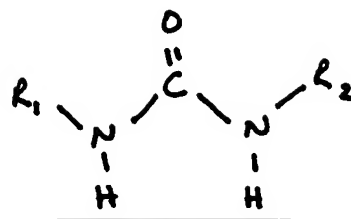
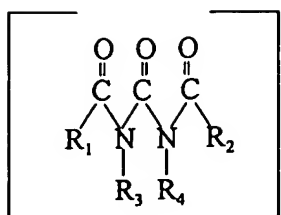


where R<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub>, ~~R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>~~ are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

30. (currently amended) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein R<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub>, ~~R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>~~ are hydrogen, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and unsubstituted alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

31. (original) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein said plant seed has been soaked in an aqueous solution containing said N,N' – substituted urea.

32. (currently amended) An improved plant seed comprising a seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula



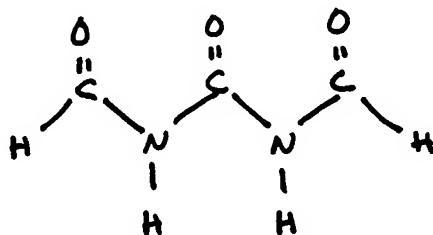
where  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are the same or different and are selected from the group carbonyl groups derived from the acids consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides, formic, acetic, propionic, butyric, valeric, caproic, heptanoic and citric acids.

33. (currently amended) The ~~improved plant-treated~~ seed of Claim ~~31-29~~ wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen.

34. (new) The treated seed of Claim 32 wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and unsubstituted alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

35. (new) The treated seed of Claim 32 wherein said plant seed has been soaked in an aqueous solution containing said N,N' – substituted urea.

36. (new) A treated seed comprising a plant seed to which has been added diformylurea having the formula



37. (new) The treated seed of Claim 36 wherein said plant seed has been soaked in an aqueous solution containing said diformylurea.